



State of North Carolina Office of Information Technology Services

Michael F. Easley, Governor

George Bakolia, State Chief Information Officer

Memorandum

To: Agency Heads, CIOs, Security Liaisons, Interested Parties
From: George Bakolia
Subject: Statewide Virus Protection
Date: October 6, 2004

Computer virus attacks continue to be among the most prevalent and destructive computer security incidents. To help you combat this threat, the ITS Security Office (ISO) has renewed a two-year statewide desktop and server-based anti-virus software contract with the Command Software Systems corporation. The extension will allow the use of the Command Software through October 2006, under the same terms as the old agreement.

This software is being offered to you as part of your security subscription, so there is no additional cost to your agency.

Please be aware that I am reassessing this program and cannot provide any assurances that this offer will be available after October 2006. I will keep you informed as I conduct this review and consider alternatives.

As in the past, the new contract provides an unlimited enterprise license for state departments and agencies, all municipalities, county governments, public school systems (K-12), community colleges and state universities in North Carolina. This license includes take home use for all employees, faculty, and staff.

By taking a statewide approach, the state has been able to negotiate a rate of less than 50 cents per eligible seat. These are very favorable terms, and the cost of this program could increase substantially at the end of the current contract. That is one reason I am reassessing this effort.

I want to emphasize that this software should be part of your overall security effort, not a comprehensive solution. Standing alone, it will not provide adequate protection against attacks. A layered approach will provide more safeguards, and any comprehensive anti-virus solution must include email server based protection.

In addition, software alone cannot resolve virus attacks. Each agency must have security policies and procedures in place to address virus issues. Without these steps, virus incidents cannot be managed.

The Information Security Office will continue to work closely with customers and support their efforts to institute appropriate procedures for virus protection.

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William Cameron in the ITS Information Security Office is the coordinator for this Command Anti-virus distribution effort and can address any questions regarding the matter. He can be reached at William.Cameron@ncmail.net or 919-981-5151.

I will give you an update on my review of this program within a few months.

cc: Ann Garrett, Chief Information Security Officer